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TRUTH's Purſuit after FALSHOOD:

OR,

Certain untruths made manifeſt that was lately publiſhed in the News-book bearing date *April* 18. 1664. and thoſe falſe Aſperſions caſt upon an Innocent People (called *Quakers*) truly teſtified againſt, and the truth witneſſed unto, for the better Information of all People, and the Satisfaction of all that are ſober-minded.

ALSO,

It may ſerve for a word of caution and good advice to all thoſe of what Degree or Quality ſoever they be, that hath or may have any hand in perſecuting an Innocent people for their Conſcience ſake.

By a Lover of Truth and uprightneſs, but a Hater of Lying and Falſhood, *William Warwick*,

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LONDON,

Printed for the Author, 1664.

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By a Lover of Truth and uprightneſs, but a Hater of
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Truth's Pursuit after Falsehood.

WHosoever thou art, or of what quality, or place soever thou may'st be in in this world, into whose hand this book may come, let prejudice be laid aside, and in Gods fear let it be read, and let what is there set down be weighed in the Ballance of Reason, even Gods Witness in thy heart and Conscience be Judge in this Matter.

I having seen and read the Newspaper called Mercurius Politicus, Numb. 97. from Thursday the 9. of April to Thursday the 16. could not but be grieved in Spirit to see the audaciousness and impudency of the Publisher thereof, who by insinuating, and (as he would impudently) perswading the Rulers, Magistrates, and People against an innocent and peaceable people, who in scorn are called Quakers, who are well known to be a people that seeks the good, welfare, and prosperity of the souls and bodies of all men, and are found walking in the Doctrine of Christ and his Apostles, who said, Love your enemies, do good unto them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust, &c. Mat. 5. 44, 45.

And now friends and people into whose hand this may come, the everlasting God of Compassions having so far manifested his love unto my soul, as to make known his living and unchangeable truth unto me from all the deceivable wayes and changeable worships which are in the World, and not only so, but hath also inclined my heart to walk therein, unto his holy name be the praise and glory for ever and ever; All having thus tasted of the love of God, and many a time been overcome therewith, even to the begetting of love again in my heart unto the Lord, and unto his truth which lives in my heart, and is become more dear unto me then all things besides it; I judge it to be no less then my duty, according to my measure and the ability that God hath given me, to bear my testimony for the Lord at this time, as my being concerned therein, and represented unto the Nation as a person that makes it my business to promote, set up, and uphold seditious Pamphlets; and I can truly say in the fear of God, it is not for any ambition or desire that I have to appear in print, or any self seeking or self end whatsoever, but simply and nakedly that the truth may be cleared from those false and scandalous aspersions which this Enemy of Godliness hath cast upon it, and for the better information of those that desires to know the truth of this Matter. I shall not much meddle with those whom the scorning seed of Ishmael calls Hobby-horses, or Quakers wherein the truth is not so much concerned, but leave them to answer for themselves.

And first of all, the Intelligencer is pleased to signifie the fair hope and expectation he hath that somewhat will be done ere long for the suppressing of Conventicles; the necessity whereof (saith he) discovers it self dayly, for it is not now enough for the Phanatiques to have their private Meetings in corners, and to enjoy them with all freedom and impunitie, unless they may triumph over Authority in the open streets.

Answer. Now *Cains* nature is made manifest, who was the first persecutor for Religion, and the Wolfs teeth begins to appear under the Sheeps cloathing,

thereof, notwithstanding the smooth words and fair out-side, yet will bite sore when it hath opportunity. And as for Conventicles, the Meetings of the people of God (scornfully called Quakers) cannot truly be called such, for their Meetings are publick and their doors stands open, that all that comes may both hear and see what is spoken or done? Surely this zealot for the Church of England had forgotten (when he writ this Intelligence) what his Godfather and Godmother (so called) did promise and vow in his name; viz. that he should forsake the Devil and all his works; and is not Lying the work of the Devil? and doth he not lye when he saith, It is not now enough for the Phanatiques (as he calls them) to have their private Meetings, and to enjoy them with all freedom and impunity, unless they may triumph over Authority in the open streets? To prove this to be a Lye, we need not go far for evidence; Let the Goals and Prisons throughout this Nation witness how many innocent persons are at this very time sufferers therein, for no other cause but meeting together in Gods fear to wait upon him: and many thousands in and about this great City of London are eye-witnesses how we have been and are with Staves and Halberds kept out of our own hired houses and meeting-places, and so many times have been necessitated to meet in the streets? and this he calls triumphing over Authority; and all that have any true knowledge of our practice, principle, or doctrine can bear us witness that the tendency thereof, hath not been to triumph over Authority, or to the countenancing or encouraging of any in the least so to do, or to oppose, resist, or rebell against those in Authority; but on the contrary, we have been willing and ready to obey all and every just and lawfull commands of our Superiours, and that not for fear of wrath but for conscience sake, and wherein they have required our obedience to any thing contrary to the minde and will of God revealed and made known unto us, we have in the fear of God and in the spirit of meekness born our testimony against it through our patient suffering of whatever they have bin permitted to inflict upon us, & have rather chosen to lay down and part with all that is near and dear unto us, then to sin against the Lord, or to deny him before men, or to give that unto man which only and alone belongs unto God, even the rule and dominion over our Consciences, and the Lord our God through his tender mercy hath preserved us hitherto, and still doth in the same minde firm and stedfast, immoveable, and without wavering, well knowing on whom we have believed, notwithstanding all the cruel threatnings that are dayly breathed against us, yet our confidence is in the Lord, and in the power of his might; and though the Furnace may be heat yet 7 times hotter, our God is the same as ever he was, who never leaves nor forsakes them that put their trust in him; but is and will be present with his Chosen Inheritance, and the People in whom he hath placed his Name, and made his Power known; but the hope of the hippocrite shall perish, and the expectation of the ungodly shall utterly fail.

Further, the intelligencer, (or rather soul informer) saith it is past that time of day with us now, to discover the danger of schismatical meetings, yet concerning their wayes and practices, a word perhaps of Information may not be amiss.

Answer. That Information which is contrary to Truth must needs be amiss, and he would have come off with more credit if he had told of some news far remote, and saved his labour as to this which may so easily be disproved, and it is but reasonable and equal; that first he should have proved the Quakers meetings

ching to have been established by the Scriptures, before he had concluded them so to be; or at least wise have pretended some of his pious Clergy, or dignified Bishops as he calls them, to have come to our meetings, and openly in the audience of the people, by righteous reason and sound Arguments grounded upon the holy Scriptures of Truth convinced us, that the way we walk in is vain; and that the way and practice they walk and are found in is Apostolical, and according to the Scriptures, then people would have believed them; otherwise, will not people be ready to say, they are lazy and idle shepherds; we conclude that they have not Truth on their side; notwithstanding their Spiritual Courts Carnal Laws and Carnal Weapons, by which they would force and compel people to come to their Church, and bow and conform to their worship, when as yet they have not convinced them that it is the way that God could have them worship in; and so it being contrary to their faith they would force them to be Hypocrites; for *Whatsoever is not of faith is sin*: Therefore consider this all you that would force people to conform to your worship contrary to the perswasion of the Spirit of God in their hearts and consciences, and be well advised what you do; for the Lord hath opened the eyes of many people, and you can never bring them into blindness again: and though you build your nests on high, and say in your hearts you have the strength and power of the three Kingdoms on your side, and so trust in the Arm of flesh, and forget the Lord and his dealings with you and your Fathers in the years that are past: It may be worth your serious consideration, to consider what was the ground or cause of the Lords giving of you into the hands of your enemies then, and leaving you as it were without hope of ever enjoying such a day, as miraculously given you again, and once more entrusted you with it: and now search and try your wayes, and see whether the same ground and cause that caused the anger of the Lord to be kindled against you, and your fathers then, be not found amongst you now, and if upon diligent search you find it so to be, what reason can you produce to your selves that the same effect will not follow; For the Lord is just in all his wayes, and righteous in all his doings and now count me not your enemy for telling you the truth.

But hearken unto the witness of God in your own hearts, which condemns you in secret for your evil deeds, for that will deal plainly with you, and tell it to the truth of these things; for in God's holy fear I declare that I write not these things out of any enmity to the Person or person of any of you, but in tender bowels of love, that if happily any of you may hearken and consider, and turn unto the Lord before your day be turned into night, and the patience and long suffering of the Lord come to an end as to you-ward, and the house of your visitation be wholly over; surely the time hastens, whither you hearken or forbear, I am clear, and remember that you were once more warned.

And further, the Intelligencer saith; At the Bull and Mouth in St *Martins* near Aldersgate (a spacious building and the common meeting place of the Quakers) there are first 2 schools where the Children are taught by Catechistical forms, that the Ceremonies of the Church of *England* are Idolatrous, and the Ministers Antichristian; there are likewise under the same roof a Book-seller, & a Book-binder, both Quakers, whose business it is to provide and fit up seditious Pamphlets to disperse at their meetings, medling with no other but what is against the Government, as may appear by divers pestilent Libels that have

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been taken, or left in several Houses of the Parish, and from the same place and person, Books of that quality have been taken not six weeks or times in that space of a fortnight.

Answer. As for the Catechism that he seems to be so much offended at, the Author hath proved by the Scriptures of Truth the things therein asserted, which is more then *Kathy Kirby* hath done for any of the Bishops or Clergy he hath called at to prove by the holy Scriptures the Quakers meetings to be schismatical, & their Books to be seditious pamphlets & pestilent libels, before he had some presented them to the Nation; neither he, nor the Bishops and Ministers of the Church of *England* would willingly be so represented themselves without any further proof then a bare affirmation, for if any one should call them Antichristian, they would not take it well, though they are found walking contrary to the Doctrine of Christ, who said unto them not Christian, *as ye would that men should do unto you, so do ye unto them likewise*, Luke 6. 31. so do when he took away my books, Jones in less then the space of 14 dayes as he confesses they were taken away, he had as much & more cause to be alarm'd in the taking of them away as to be alarmed to confess who took them away; for he that discovers theft ought also as much as in him lies to discover the theef, and do such as persecute for Religion, do as they would be done by; would they have their goods spoyled, would they be separated from their Wifes and tender Children, and from their honest and lawful imployment, by which they provide for their Families, and are serviceable in their generation; would they be thrust into noysom prisons and stinking Dungeons, and there endure a lasting and a languishing Martyrdom (as many hath done whose innocent blood cries for vengeance as righteous Abel did) would they be banished out of their native Country? would they be prosecuted against as felons, and to be put to death without mercy, and for no other cause, but for doing that which they are perswaded by the spirit of God (in their hearts and consciences) they ought to do, and if they should not do it they should sin against the Lord; or on the other hand for refusing to do that which by the same holy Spirit of God they are perswaded they ought not to do, and if they do it they should therein also sin against the Lord. And now you who would be called Christians, would you be so done unto, and for no other cause but as afore mentioned? let Gods witness speak in your hearts and answer, will answer no; then remember Christs words (*in no vain repetition*) *all things whatsoever you would that men should do unto you, so do you unto them, and if any man say that he loves God, and hateth his brother he is a lyer*, and again *if we love one another God dwelleth in us*, which Christ Jesus of his very own flesh and bone, what spirit are you of, *for if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his*, then let no man be so foolish as to think that he is a Christian, for the Spirit of Christ never persecuted, but being a true Christian, for the Spirit of Christ never persecuted, but being persecuted in all Ages and Generations, neither came he to destroy mens lives, but to save them, therefore let none deceive themselves with a name or profession of Christianity, only for except men and women be born again, and become new creatures, there will be no entrance into Gods Kingdome, for their place will be with the goats on the left hand, and sad will be their sentence.

And as for our meeting with no other books, but such as are against the Government, it is utterly false, and the lye falsifies dimples his own head that published it, for we meddle with none such, but our books are well known throughout all the Nations that they are not against the Government, but against all unrighteousness

[illegible] whether in Kings, Rulers, Priests or people; and things [illegible] but agreeable to the Scriptures of Truth, as it is written, these shall [illegible] make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. Now this is the very spirit of darkness, the murderer of mens souls, that stirs up men against the Lamb, and his followers, and this cause was Christ hated of the world, because he testified against them, that their deeds were evil, and so have been hit followers in all ages, and herein is the Scripture fulfilled, that will hold, shall suffer persecution, and saith Christ Jesus, the servant is not greater than his Lord, if they have done so to the green tree, what will they do to the dry?

And for his calling those books which he took from the Bull and mouth of the Lion, as in the copies, namely his own lying pamphlets, and most [illegible] to every sober and impartial reader [illegible] judge of the tendency of a great part of his pamphlet is to incense and provoke people unto the King, Parliament, and the whole Nation, as if the Lords people unto whom I am sent, were a certain people strangely [illegible] and dispersed among the people in all the Provinces of the Kingdome, and that [illegible] and do not keep the Kings laws, therefore it is necessary for the King [illegible] And does not this appear what is here [illegible] against the Lords people for [illegible] calling their books pestilent libels, and [illegible] the government, to endeavour what he can to parallel wicked Haman, and to stir up the spirit of persecution, that the Innocent may be destroyed, and [illegible] the fruits of persecution both pestilent, infectious and destructive to mens [illegible] and whole Nations, as may be seen more at large in a book called [illegible] for the Watchmen of the Spirit of persecution; and is not the [illegible] that is now in this man one and the self same with that in Haman, or are [illegible] here now more fair, or his expectation more strong than Hamans was, [illegible] when the letters were sealed with the Kings ring, and sent by posts into [illegible] Kings provinces to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both [illegible] and old, little children and women in one day; and did not the Lord destroy them, and is not he as able to deliver now, and did not the just hand and [illegible] judgement of the Lord overtake Haman then, and will he clear the guilty now? [illegible] nay, if ye are found in the same spirit whoever you are, though high and [illegible] and think your selves secure; yet the hand of the Lord will finde you [illegible] and his just judgements will overtake you and weep you [illegible] the [illegible] of destruction except you speedily repent, then shall you remember with [illegible] and sorrow, and confess to the truth of what is here written, for the day [illegible] hasteneth wherein the mournful people of the Lord, the remnant made willing to give those books to the printers, and their friends to them that sent for [illegible] shall sing for joy of heart, when their persecutors shall howl for vexation of spirit, for among Christians conscience in this matter (though some may be blinded at my plainness, and because I have told them the truth) I hope for this my testimony may yet be the more eased by such as have ears and do not hear, and hearts and understand not the things that belongs to their [illegible] yielding peace, yet my reward I feel with the Lord, and am well contented with my portion, and rests in the will of God, and in perfect love and good will towards all men, who am known by the name of

William Warwick.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wherein it is said in the News book which was given forth by Mr. Muddiman, called April upon the fourth day of the said Month upon the day called the day. That two Quakers were employed from London upon the evening of October to give notice that the Tuesday Forces would be by night. That there was a meeting accordingly to appoint men to ... Nay &c. But this is a great mistake & a false thing concerning ... Quakers for several credible persons went to the Justices and ... why they did offer to send such a thing up to London which ... forth in the News-book which would be a great prejudice and hurt to ... ple who were innocent; the Justices answered, that their ... from two men that looked sober, and only one person ... but he would give them to Quakers who had some matter against them: and ... the Justices reported it was through their mere mistake, and to ... particular otherwise: And the evidence in the Court before ... Judge Turner as the Affirm as Apsley was as followeth, viz. That a young man that were strangers, came and gave intelligence to Captain Atkinson— They asked what they were, and the evidence said he knew not, they were sober men. Upon one person caused them to be put in Quakers; and so when some had told before the Justices how it was wrong, & how they had wronged those people, & the Justices said that one person amongst them would have it to be so, and so put all the ... which the judges knows what the evidence was that was given in open Court.

So in Equity, and according to Equity, this ought to be ... ed in the next News-book. For the discourse about it is that the ... sons had with the justices, was after the thing was drawn up to be ... King, and the person that did it was not present when the ... were spoken to about it.— And it is good to remove these ... off of this said people which lyeth upon them throughout the Nation, for ... but reason & equity is to declare a testimony was given in the face of ... and so it is known and the controlling such things renders the ... If any will not believe this testimony, desire them to go to the ... further testimony.

Further,

And whereas by faith and obedience were for all in ... called therefore shall it, 1661. ... to endeavour ...

... clude that ... which is in it self ... but these things be ... for they are of ...

... the ... that ... they are an abomi-

The End.